

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: VERIZON RHODE ISLAND	:	
WAIVER REQUEST FOR NUMBER BLOCK	:	DOCKET NO. 3743
RELEASE – BROOKS PHARMACY	:	

REPORT AND ORDER

I. OVERVIEW

On April 26, 2006, Verizon Rhode Island (“VZ-RI”), filed a request with the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for a waiver from the denial by the North American Number Pooling Administrator (“NANPA”) of VZ-RI’s request to release certain blocks of numbers for VZ-RI’s customer, Brooks Pharmacy (“the Customer”). Specifically, Verizon had requested 2500 numbers in three consecutive blocks. VZ-RI does not have 2500 consecutive numbers in its inventory in the East Greenwich exchange. Because of Brooks’ dialing pattern, two of the thousand blocks must begin with 2 and 3, respectively, with the other 500 coming from a thousand block beginning with 1 or 4. All must be consecutive in order to make its expanded telecommunications system compatible with its existing system.

II. PRIOR RELEVANT COMMISSION WAIVER ORDER

In Docket No. 3567, Order No. 17622 (issued December 1, 2003), Cox Communications, LLC had a customer seeking specific blocks of numbers. The customer was seeking to install a DID system and further, to have the new numbers match the old extensions, thus prompting a request for specific blocks which Cox did not already have. In that case, Cox did not have a 70% utilization rate on its assigned blocks, but rather, only had a 51% utilization rate on the remaining numbers it had available for customers.

The request in Docket No. 3567 was an issue of first impression for the Commission. The Commission noted that the purpose of the utilization percentage is to conserve unused numbers in order to extend the life of the NPA. In light of the importance of conserving numbers and preserving the NPA, the Commission set initial minimum standards that must be met by a carrier in order for the Commission to consider a request for a waiver. The Commission found that a carrier must have a utilization rate over 50% and must have a customer ready, willing and able to utilize at least 60% of the numbers within the requested blocks either immediately, or in the very near future. This in no way was meant to suggest that the Commission will automatically approve every request that meets these minimum standards. The Commission stated that it must review each request on a case by case basis for reasonableness and to keep some control on the release of blocks.

### III. COMMISSION FINDINGS

In order for a carrier to receive an additional block of numbers, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) has determined that the carrier must have a 75 percent utilization rate. VZ-RI’s utilization rate is 66.668%. Therefore, it does not meet the FCC’s requirement. However, it does meet the Commission’s first standard for seeking a waiver. The Customer will require less than 60% of a block because the final block of numbers will only have a 50% utilization. However, as VZ-RI notes, the Customer will be ready, willing, and able to utilize 83% of the numbers in the three blocks being sought (2500 of 3000 numbers). Therefore, the Commission finds that there will be a sufficient amount of numbers put into place and the remaining 500 unused numbers will not cause undue burden on the NPA and these numbers will be available if the Customer seeks to expand further or for VZ-RI to assign to other customers.

The Commission again cautions that carriers should make every effort to work with customers to avoid the need to seek a waiver and maximize the utilization of the numbers to which the carrier is assigned. The Number Pooling Rules are in place to conserve the 401 area code. However, in this case, VZ-RI has a customer who is willing to use a majority of the total numbers requested.

Accordingly, it is

(18604) ORDERED:

1. That VZ-RI's request for a waiver from the denial of the release of three thousand blocks in the 401-NXX commencing with 2000, 3000 and either 1000 or 4000 is granted.
2. VZ-RI shall file with the Commission a copy of the Part 4 (certifying numbers in service) that it will need to file with NANPA.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON MAY 11, 2006  
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON  
MAY 11, 2006.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Elia Germani, Chairman

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Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner

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Mary E. Bray, Commissioner